



REBUILD IOWA OFFICE (RIO) LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY

JANUARY 14, 2010

AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS
LAST YEAR'S ISSUES CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.rio.iowa.gov/news/legislative_weekly/index.html

RIO MISSION:

The Rebuild Iowa Office will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

RIO VISION:

We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

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REBUILD IOWA DAY AT THE CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS RECOVERY EFFORTS

The Rebuild Iowa Office is sponsoring "Rebuild Iowa Day" at the Capitol Rotunda January 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. At the event, individuals can learn more about the state's disaster recovery efforts from the 2008 floods and tornadoes.

The public, state legislators, city officials and media representatives are invited to view displays and speak to officials from federal and state agencies assisting with the recovery from the severe

storms and floods of 2008. Representatives from disaster-affected communities will also be at the event to share their recovery stories.

Attendees will be able to visit booths covering the following topics:

- Individual and Business Case Management
- Flood Insurance/Flood Mapping
- Smart Planning/

Infrastructure

- Water Resource Coordinating Council Recommendations
- Community Representatives
- Disaster Funding
- Housing/Buyouts

For more information about the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts, please visit the Rebuild Iowa Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

THE RIO'S JANUARY QUARTERLY REPORT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT 2008 RECOVERY EFFORT

On Monday, the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) publicly released its January Quarterly Report. The report provides an update on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa's recovery from the devastating 2008 floods and tornadoes. The report also lists specific examples and updated statistics on how disaster-assistance programs are helping Iowans and their impacted communities.

The RIO'S 168-page January Quarterly Report continues to detail the Office's economic recovery strategy in the categories of housing; business; workforce development; infrastructure investments; individual services and guidance; local economic recovery; smart planning; mitigation planning; flood plain and watershed



RIO Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis attends a groundbreaking for an HMGP-funded school safe room in Waverly.

management; flood plain mapping; quality of life; and emergency management. As the 2010 Legislative Session gets underway, this report offers a number of recommendations that have been submitted to legislators as ways to better plan for and

mitigate damages from future disasters. These include recommendations from the Water Resource Coordinating Council on flood plain management, recommendations on ways to promote an increase in the

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REBUILDING FROM IOWA'S 2008 DISASTER IS NOT COMPLETE

By Jim Davis, business owner from Charles City, Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Member and RIAC Housing Task Force Co-Chair

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) wants to remind Iowans that while significant progress has been made in recovering from the floods and tornadoes of 2008, Iowa's rebuilding effort is not complete. In addition, much work is still needed to mitigate risk from future disasters and rebuild a safer, stronger, smarter Iowa.

The RIAC was created in June 2008 to develop a statewide response to the disasters that occurred that summer. Directed by the input of hundreds of Iowans, the Commission prepared a 45-day report and a 120-day report that consisted of recovery recommendations for Governor Culver and the Iowa Legislature to consider.

The 45-day report focused

on immediate needs and short-term recommendations. Providing case management, relocating families displaced from their homes, assisting struggling small businesses, creating flexible funding options for local governments, and expediting the flow of federal funds to the state were some of the items identified for immediate action.

The 120-day report focused on more long-term goals and recommendations. Many of the same recommendations identified in the 45-day report were again addressed, but from the perspective of long-range needs. Regional planning, infrastructure investment, flood plain mapping, establishment of the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and other items were also identified.

The Commission was pleased to see all 12 of the recommendations from the 120-day report acted upon in some way by the 2009 Iowa Legislature. It was

particularly gratifying to see the unanimous passage of House File 64 (also known as the "Rebuild Iowa Bill"), which allocated \$56 million in state funds to address the immediate needs of disaster-impacted Iowans. The spirit of bi-partisanship and cooperation demonstrated by the passage of this bill was an essential first step in Iowa's recovery.

As we approach the 2010 session of the Iowa General Assembly, the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) calls upon our policymakers to once again find that same spirit to address the recommendations in our reports. We, along with other Iowans, are counting on Iowa's legislators to build on the progress that has already been made, to address Iowa's continuing unmet needs and to minimize the impact of future disasters. It is imperative that we all act now before the devastation of the 2008 disasters become a distant memory in the minds of many.



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purchase of flood insurance and Smart Planning Principles that should be considered so communities can rebuild sustainably.

"As the RIO continues to coordinate the state's recovery effort from the largest disaster to ever hit Iowa, progress is being made," said Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO's executive director. "While no one will deny the road to recovery is long and tedious, there is evidence that Iowans are starting to

once again establish a sense of normalcy. Meanwhile, the RIO knows the job is far from over and maintains its commitment to helping ease the burden on impacted communities, businesses and families."

The January report includes updated charts showing the flow of federal and state disaster recovery funding to the state, counties, cities and individuals affected by the 2008 disasters.

The report was prepared for Governor Chet Culver

and Iowa legislators in accordance with House File 64. Signed into law in February, HF64 made \$56 million in state funds available for disaster recovery and officially established the RIO through June 30, 2011.

This is the RIO's fourth Quarterly Report since the Office was formalized last year. To access the report, as well as the RIO's previous reports, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/reports.html.

